

NOTES ON NEW SOUTH WALES ORCHIDS: A NEW SPECIES AND
SOME NEW RECORDS.

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(One Text-figure.)

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1. A New Species of *Thelymitra* from Brunswick Heads.

THELYMITRA PURPURATA, n. sp.

Planta gracillima, 25–45 cm. alta, caule paullum flexuoso, saepe rubro-purpureo. Folium angustissime lineare, ad inflorescentiam ascendens; bracteae parvae. Flores 1–7, extra purpurei, intus azurei, in pedicellis brevibus. Sepala petala et labellum aequalia, 10–17 mm. longa, raro patentia. Columna purpurea; lobi penicillati librati crinibus pallidis; mitra bifida cristis aequalibus flavis tribus, et circa cristam posteriorem glandibus fimbriatis coccineis. Anthera obtusa apice subter loborum penicillatorum bases.

A very slender plant 25–45 cm. high, with a slightly flexuous stem, often reddish-purple except at the base. Leaf very narrowly linear, but channelled, ascending as high as the middle of the inflorescence. Bracts small. Flowers 1–7, dull-purplish outside, azure-blue inside, usually with a rudimentary bud above the highest flower. Pedicels and subtending bracts short; ovary a little more than half as long as the perianth. Sepals and petals opening very shyly, all equal with the labellum, 10–17 mm. long. Column bright purple or bluish-purple, the penicillate lobes long, horizontal at least till the flower is past maturity, blue or purplish with paler upturned hair-tufts. Hood bipartite, the opening in front quite conspicuous; a broad pale yellow crest behind, and a narrower one on each side of the partition in front, the crests all equal in height. The posterior crest almost surrounded by a double fringe of bright red fimbriate glands, continued as a red band to the front of the hood. Anther obtuse, the apex just lower than the bases of the penicillate lobes. Stigma large.

Brunswick Heads, ix, 1945, F. Fordham.

I received this plant from Mr. Fordham some years ago, but the specimens, and others collected later, were too much damaged when I was able to attend to them, to make it clear whether they should be accepted as a variety of *T. ixioides* Sw., or not. This year excellent specimens were available, and I think it would be quite wrong to include this beautiful little Sun-orchid in Swartz's species. Apart from the remarkably distinctive colouring, the structure of the column differs in important respects. It is, I think, the most ornate and attractive column of any species of *Thelymitra* known to me. In my herbarium there are good specimens of *T. ixioides* from Byron Bay, a few miles south of Brunswick Heads; but except that they are small, these conform to the type almost precisely, and could never be confused with the plant described above.

2. Some New Records.

Corybas diemenicus (Lindl.) Rupp and Nicholls.—In these PROCEEDINGS, liii, 1928, 85, Rupp and Nicholls, in reviewing the Australian species of *Corysanthes* R.Br., referred to R. D. Fitzgerald's unpublished plate of a species found by the late A. G. Hamilton at Guntawang near Mudgee, which Fitzgerald proposed to call *C. Hamiltonii*. After examining the plate and Hamilton's specimens in the Sydney and Melbourne Herbaria, we expressed the view that this plant was really Lindley's *Corysanthes*

diemenica, now *Corybas diemenicus*. Dried specimens of this genus are notoriously difficult to determine; but I think we can now reasonably claim that our decision in regard to Hamilton's plant has been confirmed. In August, 1945, Mr. Johnson, a school teacher in the Wellington district—a little further west than Guntawang—sent down a living plant in flower, which I immediately recognized as a typical *C. diemenicus*. It is rather remarkable that this species, which occurs commonly with *C. fimbriatus* and others in the southern States, has never been recorded in New South Wales except on the far Central Western Slopes, where it does not appear to be accompanied by any of its relatives.

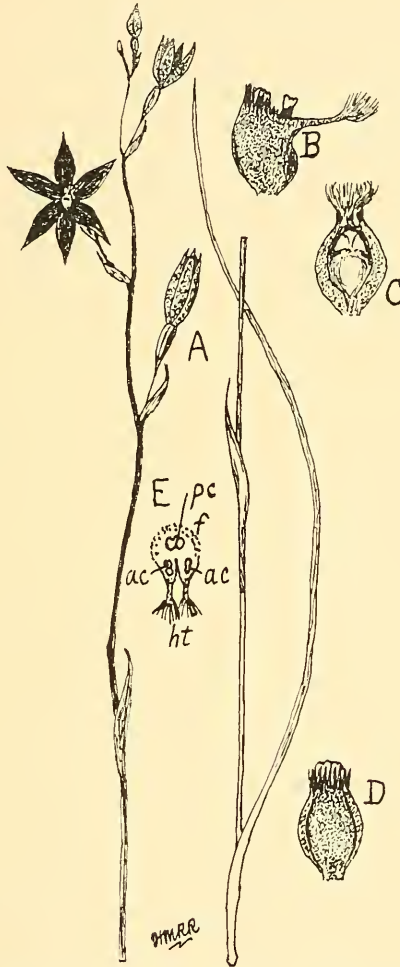


Fig. 1.—*Thelymitra purpurata*, n. sp. A, Plant. B, Column from the side. C, Column from the front. D, Column from the back. E, Diagram of column from above. *pc*, posterior crest; *ac*, anterior crests; *f*, fimbriae; *ht*, hair-tufts. (B to E all enlarged.)

Caladenia clavigera Cunn.—I received a specimen of this in September, 1945, from Mr. G. W. Althofer, of Nindethana Nursery, Dripstone. Although this species seems to be extremely rare in New South Wales, Cunningham's type locality was the Vale of Clwydd, near Lithgow. Dripstone is well over 100 miles further west.

Messrs. G. W. and P. Althofer have collected a number of orchids during the current season (1945), of which there are no definite previous records from the Central Western Slopes of New South Wales, viz., *Thelymitra aristata* Lindl., *T. nuda* R.Br., *Diuris lineata*

Messmer, *D. flavopurpurea* Messmer, *D. platichila* R. D. Fitzg., *D. aurea* Sm., *Prasophyllum odoratum* Rogers, *P. gracile* Rogers, *Chiloglottis formicifera* R. D. Fitzg., *Calochilus Robertsonii* Benth., *Acianthus reniformis* (R.Br.) Schltr., *Caladenia filamentosa* R.Br., *C. Fitzgeraldii* Rupp, *C. angustata* Lindl., *Pterostylis rufa* R.Br., *P. Woollsii* R. D. Fitzg. They have also sent in living plants of *Pterostylis Boormanii* Rupp, which was described from dried material in the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

Glossodia major R.Br.—Specimens were received in September, 1945, from Miss M. Poynder, collected at Willawong, near Murringo, in the Young district. So far as I can ascertain, the species has not been previously recorded from that area.
